

Quarterly Progress Report FOR USAID VIETNAM

I. Name of Grant

1. Name of Grantee: Health Volunteers Overseas (HVO)
2. Grant Number: 492-G-00-98-00011-00
3. Title of Project: Vietnam Rehabilitation Project
4. Date of Report Submission: 15 October, 2005
5. Reporting Period: 1 July - 30 September, 2005

II. Goals, Objectives and Progress to date

1. Summarized table of achievements

Objective 1: Support the activities of the Disability Forum (DF)

Outputs/Activities	Indicator	Overall target	Quarterly target	Quarterly achievement	Achievement to-date
DF becomes an independent local organization	- Obtained a legal status as a local NGO - Obtained a bank account	Have legal status by early 2006	N/A	Initial contact with VUSTA	Ok, in line with the target, but legal structure reveals very limited options
Capacity building for DF staff	Staff of the Forum work independently with minimum supervision from HVO	- 2 DF will continue to be employed by the new local organization - Senior staff manage and run the new organization smoothly	N/A	N/A	All staff have been trained in the 7 management skills. One staff is trained in problem-solving skills
Management and administration training	- 100% of trainees understand management concepts - 75% trainees rate courses as useful	- 5 boards of provincial associations are trained after gaining legal status - 2-3 developed in-house trainers	- 2 boards are trained - First experience for 2 in-house trainers	On target - Vinh Bao & Nam Dinh boards have been trained	3 training courses conducted, on target

	- Increased number of trained leaders of Self Help Groups	-100 board members feel more confident to manage their associations and understand management concepts			
Organize national meetings on relevant topics related to disabilities issues	- Increase participation of PWDs in choosing topics and organizing tasks to 100% - All members of DF understand development and legislation issues relating to disability	- 6 conferences/ meetings with total of 300 participants - At least 4 workshops/ conferences organized by provincial self-help groups	N/A	N/A	3 workshops have been organized in collaboration with NCCD on Decree 88 and Circular 19, in line with target
Support distribution of Monthly Updates and other publications	- Monthly Updates are emailed, regular mailed and posted on website every month - Increase number of subscribers to email list to 700	- 12 Monthly Updates annually - 700 subscribers on email distribution list - 1,000 manuals for self-help groups, and other materials on barrier-free environment are distributed	Finishing revision of manual for self-help groups	On target	On target 420 subscribers on disability-vn list
Expanding activities of DF and enhancing its status in country	Increased membership	- Updated directories of local and foreign organizations - A fixed subscribers structure	Updating directories in two languages	OK, still need English version of SHGs list	20 INGOs and 58 local SHGs in line with the target -- but driven by the new legal status
Other training courses/event as needed	1 per quarter	1 training or event every quarter	Above target	- Raising awareness campaign about national sport competition - Self-help groups from Thai Binh organized a leadership course	Above target

Objective 2: Support VIETCOT students in the one-year orthotics specialty course

Outputs/Activities	Indicator	Overall target	Quarterly target	Quarterly achievement	Achievement to-date
15 students have adequate meals and accommodation	Good service provided	All students will graduate & be employed as orthotists	All students have housing contracts for the clinical placement period	On target	On target. Students due to graduate in March
Clinical placement for 6 months	Arranged upon successful course completion	All students pass the final exam	N/A	Schedule revision results in early completion in March	Viet Duc, Hai Phong and VIETCOT selected as clinical placement sites.
Toolkits provided to graduates after clinical placement	All students receive toolkits	Students report to work with tools	Canvass suppliers	Price quotes approved	On target

Objective 3: Strengthen university linkages

Outputs/Activities	Indicator	Overall target	Quarterly target	Quarterly achievement	Achievement to-date
Provide advanced training for nurses in Hue Medical U.	All nursing staff attend and will develop teaching skills in theory and research	On-going professional contact among nurses	No activities this quarter	N/A	PSBN established, national coordinator named
Conduct 2, 3 workshops on nursing issues, incl. psychiatric and problem-solving	All nursing staff attend and will develop teaching skills in theory and research	100 nurses and other medical staff, students will receive Temple U. training	Preparation for workshops in 2006	On target	Sixty nurses, students, staff from psychology and obstetrics departments received training
Donate manikin, teaching aids, to skills labs	Donation used to improve quality of learning	Improve equipment inventory in new skills labs	Canvass local suppliers	Supplier selected and pro forma invoice solicited	One LCD projector and notebook computer delivered

Objective 4: Develop professional capacities of nurses, PTs and physicians

Outputs/Activities	Indicator	Overall target	Quarterly target	Quarterly achievement	Achievement to-date
Develop knowledge base and teaching skills of faculties in HCMC & Danang	Increased knowledge base reflected in higher test scores	Health professionals' skills, knowledge, and networks will be enhanced	N/A	On target	On target
Clinical instructors & faculty receive in-service training in PT	Increased knowledge base reflected in higher test scores	- 4 trainings in PNF offered for PT students in HCMC - All trainings will be repeated by local trainers	N/A	A follow-up workshop on mobilization and joints taught at PT Departments	Above target, all courses were taught by international experts. Repeat courses to be taught by local faculty
Send professional to attend conferences, events	International contacts will be encouraged with PTs in the region	- One PT leader will attend WCPT conference - At least two international specialists will attend ASCON 2005	Identify specialists from US to attend and speak at ASCON 2005 in HCM in November	Participants identified, registered, fees paid	On target
Training for health care providers in spinal cord injuries with HI & others	All trainees understand the process of care for SCI patients	Improve awareness & care for spinal cord injury through coordination with other agencies	Organize and implement a training course in Danang	Royal Talbot, VVAF, HVO workshop on SCI. 35 attended, incl. MDs, PTs, nurses	On target

Objective 5: Improve quality of care and management at Danang Rehab Center, through PSBH
(Problem Solving for Better Health)

Outputs/Activities	Indicator	Overall target	Quarterly target	Quarterly achievement	Achievement to-date
Improve diagnosis for CP & CVA patients	Better classification of CP patients	Rehab doctors are able to accurately diagnose CP	One consulting visit in early July	Visit carried out, monitoring and	On target

		patients for type		updating implemented	
Standardize MIS (mgmt information systems) for patient records	A computerized system to manage records established	- All patients' history and visits are recorded in the computer system - All patients receive hospital cards with assigned ID numbers	Obtained MIS software	Plan of action to train 8 staff using the new software	On target
Implement individual problem solving activities	100% PoAs (plans of action) being implemented and sustained 100% staff understand and use problem solving skills in their works	- All plans of action have been implemented and sustained - 30 staff of DRC & Hospital C are problem solvers - DRC will be designated Problem-Solving Hospital - 2-3 developed facilitators	Introduced PSBH concept in 2.5 day workshop with facilitators from Jakarta and Hue	Workshop successful, 29 plans of action submitted, implementation to begin in October	On target
Content experts visit 4 times/year or as needed	Positive response from staff reflected in assessment surveys	All teams improve technical skills in patient care	Regular visit	1 trip by 2 CP experts, on target	On target. CVA and CP focus to be reviewed
Monthly monitoring of activities	Monthly progress reports are sent	Good and effective monitoring procedure	Set up mechanism	On target	On target

2. Summary of progress taken

In two parallel processes, the "Mobilizing Committee" of the Disability Forum followed up their application for association status this quarter, and the options for establishing a local NGO have been investigated.

The Hanoi DoLISA has so far not responded favorably to the Committee's proposal to establish a group under the provisions of Decree 88. Instead, they insist that the Hanoi Blind Association, the only pre-existing PWD group recognized by the government, must play a central role.

The current revision of the draft charter indicates that the new group must be a union of groups, not individuals, and that each group must have a minimum of fifteen members.

Anticipating that any resulting association might not respond to the felt needs of current Disability Forum members, HVO has begun to investigate a second possibility: that instead of a membership association, the Disability Forum might be legalized as a local NGO with a small staff and supporting subscribers.

Until the long-awaited "NGO law" is promulgated, most such groups have joined either VUSTA or SEARAV, both "science-technology-research" associations that accept members with only tenuous connections to science and technology. Definite plans will be formulated next quarter for defining the legal future of the Disability Forum.

The final group of VIETCOT students has entered the "clinical placement" phase of the program with final exams and graduation scheduled for early next year.

The linkage between Temple and Hue Medical University has included the participation of Dreyfus Health Foundation in a program called Problem-Solving for Better Health - Nursing. The program encourages students to design small-scale activities for solving identified problems within their power to address.

Discussions with Dreyfus Health Foundation revealed that a program for problem-solving in institutional settings would be ideal for continuing the effort to improve the quality of patient care in Danang, at the Rehabilitation Center and at Hospital C.

The initial training for problem-solving was carried out in late September. Thirty-two participants from the two institutions and from HVO formulated individual and group projects to tackle identified problems, mostly focusing on patient and family education. Experienced facilitators from Jakarta and Hue conducted the training course and presented real-life experiences in problem-solving.

Implementation begins in October and will be monitored monthly.

3. Impact

The Disability Forum has established itself as Vietnam's central source of information and coordination of disabilities issues. The next step must be to provide for long-term sustainability of the organization through registration as a local entity and management training.

Provincial groups have gained a great deal of confidence in their ability to manage local clubs and associations. New groups have sprung up in Hanoi, including women's clubs, a photography club, music and sports clubs. This demonstrates a burgeoning understanding among people with disabilities that they have abilities and the right to self-determination in tackling their own issues.

4. Constraints

It is increasingly clear that despite the promise of Decree 88, attempts to establish independent civil society groups will be problematic. Many provincial and city-level politicians don't understand or don't agree with the concept and prefer to maintain the status quo. In their view, the Society of Support for Orphans and Disabled People and the Blind Association should remain the dominant groups in the disabilities sector.

5. Issues or Upcoming Events for which you'd like USAID's Support?

The Ambassador will be invited to speak on the occasion of the International Day of People with Disabilities (to be celebrated on November 27 in conjunction with HIV/AIDS Day and Volunteers Day).

III. Expenditures

Sent separately.

IV. Plan of Action for the next quarter

Project Manager Linda James will visit October 24 - November 3, her annual project monitoring visit. The mid-term evaluation, carried out by Caitlin Wyndham, will have been submitted by that time, and the results will be considered in the planning process for the coming quarter and the final calendar year of the project.

Delegates will be sent to attend a number of conferences next quarter, including the World Confederation for Physical Therapy conference in Seoul and the Asian Spinal Cord Network Conference in Ho Chi Minh City.

Visiting experts will follow up on the Quality Assurance work in Danang in November and late December.